End notes


2. This trend was evident and discussed at a meeting of technical experts representing approximately 15 countries contributing to a Forum on Progressive Governance in Stockholm in June 2001.


4. The Stats SA publication Unemployment and Employment in South Africa states that 32 per cent of African households contained no employed people. The total number of African households (5 950 992) comes from Leibbrandt, Woolard and Bhorat (2000, p.49). These authors used the 1995 OHS. The total number of households in the Leibbrandt et al piece (8 801 993) accords well with the 1996 population census number of 9 060 000 (Report No. 03-01-12 [1996], p.86. Note that this excludes institutions and hostels. The number of workerless African households in 1999 comes from a report using the 1999 OHS. by Michael Samson of the Economic Policy Research Institute. There were 3 069 897 such households, 2 859 167 of them containing working adults, and 210 730 containing either pensioners only or pensioners and children (skip-generation households).


9. Giddens 1998, 2000. Giddens (1998, p.100) says that: “Social democrats have to shift the relationship between risk and security in the welfare state, to develop a society of ‘responsible risk takers’ in the spheres of Government, business enterprise and labour markets. People need protection when things go wrong, but also the material and moral capabilities to move through major periods of transition in their lives.”

10. These pitfalls were identified in a World Bank Study on Best Practices in Social Protection draft document, April 2001.


13. Section 8(1).

14. In terms of section 8(2) a provision in the Bill of Rights binds a natural or a juristic person if, and to the extent that, it is applicable, taking into account the nature of the right and the nature of any duty imposed by the rights.

15. Given the distinct constitutional duties placed on the state and organs of state to fulfil, promote, protect and respect social security rights, and the constitutional rules of interpretation of these rights, all existing legislation, as well as common law and customary law must be scrutinised and brought in accordance with the right to access to social security, as well as other social security-related rights.


17. The SALDRU survey takes its name from the University of Cape Town’s South African Labour and Development Research Unit, which undertook a national household survey in 1993 in cooperation with the World Bank.

18. Payment Extraction Report for Pay Period April 2001, SOCPEN system — Department of Social Development, 5 April 2001. The figure counts beneficiaries for the Child Support Grant as the actual number of grant recipients, not the number of children. In March 2001, there were 842 892 beneficiaries, receiving grants for 1 084 659 children.

19. Finance Minister Trevor Manual acknowledged the State Old Age Pension system as one of Government’s most important poverty alleviation programmes.
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(Budget Speech 1997/98), a fact which is similarly recognised in the White Paper (1997): “The number of elderly South African beneficiaries has stabilised, with fairly good coverage (80%), but there are still particular pockets where many eligible people do not get a grant. The impact of a grant income on household income for people in poverty is dramatic. The majority of people in poverty who are not white live in three-generation households, and the grant is typically turned over for general family use. In 1993, there were 7.7 million people in households that received a state grant. For black South Africans, each pensioner’s income helped five other people in the household.” See also COSATU (1996), Ardington & Lund (1995), and Haarmann (2000).

20 Haarmann (2000) summarises the findings of the task team’s report (Schneider & Marshall, 1998): “The task team recommends changing the test by moving from assessment of functional capacity only to evaluation of a range of needs and economic factors and hence developing a ‘profile of needs’ of the applicant. This profile should, besides the medical and financial indicators, also include indicators like the costs related to the specific disability, the support mechanisms, and a socio-economic profile of the area and possible vulnerability to discrimination. The rationale for this recommendation is the appreciation that each disability creates a range of needs. This is especially the case in the South African situation where other social security measures like accessible healthcare, re-training, vocational rehabilitation and transport are largely absent. The task team inter alia recommends the employment of ‘evaluators’ in each district for evaluating the needs of people with disabilities, an improvement in the administration and information system of the grant and a stronger inter-sectoral collaboration of the different departments. Strategies for people with disabilities that were already set out in the White Paper ranged from improvement of accessibility to the welfare system, to training opportunities, transport and the labour market.


22 See for instance significant research analyses on this undertaken by Pieter le Roux (2001).


24 These submissions include (and are based on) information supplied by the Child Health Policy Institute, UCT “Special Focus on Social Security for Children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS”, 2001.

25 Gathering accurate data on disability is notoriously difficult. This is for many reasons, but is in large part due to the many competing definitions of disability itself and to practical difficulties with identifying people with disabilities. Definitions of disability differ from survey to survey; people answering household questionnaires respond to questions differently depending on their personal notions of disability; the stigma associated with disability may cause some people to conceal their status; since the disability tends to more prevalent in poorer households and communities, precisely those communities where it is most difficult to gather data, it can be more difficult to capture people with disabilities in standard household surveys. Such problems are common to many efforts at obtaining a quantitative profile of people with disabilities in developing countries.

26 This figure is derived from the 1999 OHS, which provides the lowest estimate of disability prevalence among available surveys. For example, Elwan [1999] p.8 reports that evidence from the 1990 United States census suggested that nearly 29.2 per cent per cent of the population had a family member who was disabled in some respect.